

(iv) Creation of an Export Cell in the Department of Food & Public Distribution to deal with export of foodgrains in a focussed manner.

Long Term export policy for foodgrains

†1230. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a long-term export policy keeping in mind the bulk storage of foodgrains in the country and better prospects of bumper crop;

(b) if so, whether "ASSOCHAM" has registered its protest with Government against enhancing the price of wheat to Rs. 4250/- per tonne after taking a decision to fix its price @ Rs. 4200/- per tonne; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government is fixing the export price of wheat for issue from the Central pool after considering the International prices of wheat and other related factors before announcing the export prices from time to time.

Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains with it in the Central pool *vis-a-vis* the prescribed buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend for procurement for Central Pool, requirement for Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes, open market prices, etc. A decision to import or export foodgrains on Government account is taken depending on the overall situation.

(b) ASSOCHAM had expressed the view that increase in export price was likely to slow down exports.

(c) The Government decides the export price from time to time keeping the trends in international prices of foodgrains and other related factors in view.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.